

Message Text

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EUR/SOV - MR. DYESS (SUB)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SIMAS KUDIRKA

FOLLOWING IS FROM DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
AUGUST 30:

QUOTE: Q: WHAT ABOUT THE SEAMAN, SIMAS KUDIRKA? WHAT DO
WE HAVE ON HIM OFFICIALLY?

A: ON THAT, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO LEAVE IT THAT
WE'VE SEEN A NUMBER OF ENCOURAGING PRESS REPORTS OVER THE
PAST DAY OR TWO ON SEAMAN KUDIRKA. AND ALL I CAN SAY
RIGHT NOW IS THAT OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW CONTINUES TO
BE IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE KUDIRKA
CASE. AND AS SOON AS WE ARE IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU ANY-
THING NEW ON THIS, WE WILL LET YOU KNOW RIGHT AWAY.

Q: ON THE SAME QUESTION, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT EFFORTS
THE STATE DEPARTMENT MADE, OR THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY
MADE, TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF KUDIRKA?

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A: I'D RATHER JUST MAKE A GENERAL COMMENT RIGHT NOW,

THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN VERY FREQUENT TOUCH WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON THIS CASE, HERE AND IN MOSCOW.

Q: THE SECRETARY, DIRECTLY?

A: I'D LIKE TO JUST LEAVE IT GENERAL, IF I MAY, RIGHT NOW.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION FROM THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW THAT HE HAS BEEN RELEASED?

A: AS SOON AS I CAN GIVE YOU ANYTHING NEW ON THIS, I WILL. I HAVE NO CONFIRMATION AS YET.

Q: WHAT IS THE LAST WORD YOU HAVE ON KUDIRKA, THE LATEST WORD YOU HAVE ON HIM?

A: I'D RATHER JUST LEAVE IT WHERE WE ARE, RIGHT NOW.

Q: WHY ARE YOU BEING SO DELICATE ABOUT THIS?

A: THIS IS A CASE ON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY, VERY HARD FOR MANY MONTHS, AND THAT IS WHY I HAVE PHRASED WHAT I SAID IN THE BEGINNING SO CAREFULLY HERE, AND I JUST THINK IT PRUDENT FOR ME TO STAY JUST WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW.

Q: DID HE SHOW UP AT THE EMBASSY AND PICK UP A PASSPORT?

A: TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF HE IS COMING TO THE UNITED STATES? HAS HE EXPRESSED ANY SUCH DESIRE?

A: I JUST CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING SPECIFIC RIGHT NOW. JUST BEAR WITH ME ON THAT.

Q: IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN MOSCOW BY DR. SAKHAROV THAT HE IS FREE, THAT HE IS ON HIS WAY --

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A: YES, I HAVE SEEN THIS.

Q: AND YET THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CASE AND HAS WORKED VERY HARD ALL THESE MANY MONTHS, HAS NO WORD ON WHETHER HE IS FREE OR NOT.

A: THERE HAS BEEN IN THE SAME TICKER THAT GIVES THIS

REPORT THAT YOU MENTION THAT QUOTES AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW AS SAYING THAT THEY HAD NO OFFICIAL
CONFIRMATION, AND THAT THE EMBASSY IS LOOKING INTO
THESE REPORTS. SO I WOULD JUST LIKE TO LEAVE IT THERE,
IF YOU DON'T MIND. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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